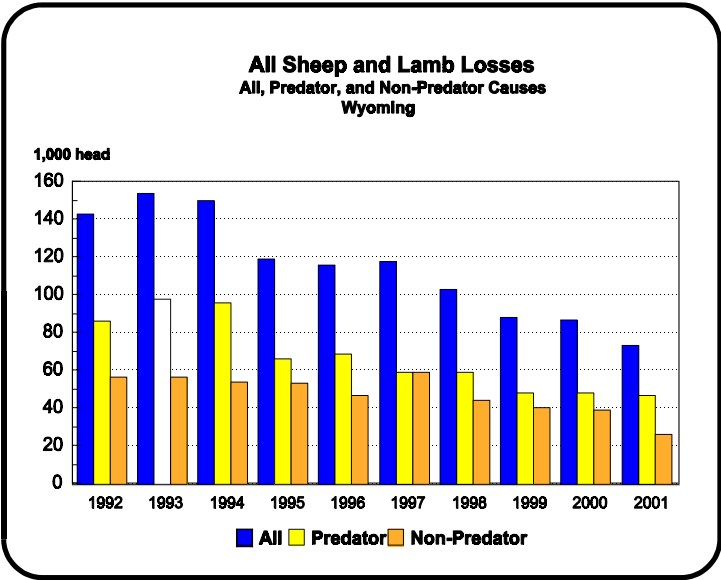


# SHEEP LOSSES TO ALL CAUSES - 2001

Wyoming sheep and lamb producers lost an estimated 73,000 head of sheep and lambs to predators, weather, lambing problems, disease and other causes in 2001 according to our annual survey. Predator losses were nearly unchanged from the previous year while non-predator losses fell by a third. The 2001 lamb crop totaled 345,000 lambs marked, docked, or branded which was 30,000 fewer than in 2000. Adding in the lambs lost before docking results in a potential lamb supply of 375,000 head. Of these, 15 percent were lost to various causes.

These data are based on reports from producers on our annual January Sheep Survey. We thank all Wyoming ranchers and farmers for their help with this survey. We also thank the Wyoming Business Council, Agribusiness Division who funds this report as part of the annual agreement with our agency to provide statistics for Wyoming agriculture.



## HIGHLIGHTS

**PREDATOR LOSSES STEADY; OTHER LOSSES DECLINE:** Wyoming sheep producers lost 47,000 sheep and lambs to predators in 2001, down only 1,000 head from 2000 despite a smaller breeding herd and lamb crop. Coyotes were again the biggest predator taking 69 percent of the total predator losses and 44 percent of all losses. Losses to weather, disease and other non-predator causes fell by a third to 26,000 head.

**ALL LAMB LOSSES DOWN 15 PERCENT:** Sheep producers lost 58,000 lambs before or after docking in 2001, 15 percent less than in 2000. Losses to predators accounted for 71 percent of the total. Losses of lambs to weather and disease were both down significantly from the previous year. Losses of lambs to predators, at 41,000 head, were down only 1,000 head from 2000.

**SHEEP LOSSES DOWN 21 PERCENT:** Sheep losses in Wyoming during 2001 totaled 15,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2000. Predator losses were unchanged at 6,000 but non-predator losses dropped 4,000 head to 9,000.

**VALUE OF LOSSES UP 6 PERCENT:** Sheep producers in Wyoming lost an estimated \$5.06 million from sheep and lamb deaths in 2000, up 6 percent from the previous year as prices were higher. Predation accounted for \$2.62 million or 52 percent of the total value.

# LOSSES OF SHEEP AND LAMBS BY CAUSE: WYOMING 1996-2001 1/

Cause of Loss	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of Head						
Coyotes	49,000	41,000	39,500	31,000	34,000	32,300
Bobcats	400	500	600	500	500	700
Dogs	1,200	800	1,000	900	600	500
Bears	900	900	1,500	800	300	1,200
Eagles	8,500	7,000	8,400	7,400	5,900	6,000
Fox	6,800	6,300	5,400	4,700	4,700	4,600
Mountain Lions	1,800	2,100	1,900	2,000	1,600	1,200
Other Predators	400	400	700	700	400	500
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>
Weather	17,100	30,000	15,400	8,600	12,600	7,500
Disease	9,000	12,300	10,300	14,000	9,600	4,400
Lambing Complications	8,500	6,200	6,700	6,100	7,200	6,000
Poison	3,100	3,300	3,500	3,900	3,700	2,600
Old Age	3,400	1,900	3,100	3,500	3,300	2,300
On Back	1,000	700	900	1,000	1,000	800
Theft	1,400	1,300	900	100	500	1,000
Other Known Causes	3,500	3,300	3,200	2,800	1,100	1,400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>
Percent of Total by Cause						
Coyotes	42.2	34.7	38.3	35.2	39.1	44.2
Bobcats	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.0
Dogs	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7
Bears	0.8	0.8	1.5	0.9	0.3	1.6
Eagles	7.3	5.9	8.2	8.4	6.8	8.2
Fox	5.9	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4	6.3
Mountain Lions	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.6
Other Predators	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>64.4</b>
Weather	14.7	25.4	15.0	9.8	14.5	10.3
Disease	7.8	10.4	10.0	15.9	11.0	6.0
Lambing Complications	7.3	5.3	6.5	6.9	8.3	8.2
Poison	2.7	2.8	3.4	4.4	4.3	3.6
Old Age	2.9	1.6	3.0	4.0	3.8	3.2
On Back	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1
Theft	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.6	1.4
Other Known Causes	3.0	2.8	3.1	3.2	1.3	1.9
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause						
Coyotes	2,916,200	2,496,200	1,969,450	1,577,800	1,883,400	1,551,200
Bobcats	25,430	32,690	25,860	22,700	24,800	33,900
Dogs	83,870	49,670	59,120	57,900	33,700	29,550
Bears	60,060	59,720	96,690	49,100	18,820	71,750
Eagles	478,800	400,590	388,740	353,000	300,520	267,450
Fox	371,670	360,970	232,740	217,640	233,120	203,800
Mountain Lions	116,330	132,030	108,590	120,620	99,060	63,450
Other Predators	21,640	27,030	35,510	36,040	23,780	25,400
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>4,074,000</b>	<b>3,558,900</b>	<b>2,916,700</b>	<b>2,434,800</b>	<b>2,617,200</b>	<b>2,246,500</b>
Weather	1,038,810	2,224,800	786,560	428,780	680,120	351,950
Disease	566,490	744,470	540,050	703,760	543,140	224,350
Lambing Complications	543,230	407,990	395,570	357,880	475,320	338,000
Poison	232,140	243,850	257,650	258,000	262,320	164,450
Old Age	312,800	190,950	299,150	308,000	293,700	193,200
On Back	88,210	61,570	81,510	88,000	89,000	63,050
Theft	106,060	95,530	60,150	8,800	36,620	67,400
Other Known Causes	223,460	204,340	223,360	173,980	66,380	76,100
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>3,111,200</b>	<b>4,173,500</b>	<b>2,644,000</b>	<b>2,327,200</b>	<b>2,446,600</b>	<b>1,478,500</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>7,185,200</b>	<b>7,732,400</b>	<b>5,560,700</b>	<b>4,762,000</b>	<b>5,063,800</b>	<b>3,725,000</b>

1/Includes all lamb losses from birth both before and after docking.

# LOSSES OF SHEEP BY CAUSE: WYOMING 1996-2001 1/

Cause of Loss	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of Head						
Coyotes	7,000	4,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	4,300
Bobcats	100	100	—	—	—	100
Dogs	500	100	300	400	100	200
Bears	300	200	600	300	100	500
Eagles	500	100	500	400	200	300
Fox	100	100	—	100	—	200
Mountain Lions	500	300	500	700	500	300
Other Predators	—	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Weather	3,000	12,000	2,300	900	1,400	800
Disease	2,100	1,100	1,800	1,600	1,700	900
Lambing Complications	2,200	1,300	2,000	1,900	3,000	2,000
Poison	1,700	1,300	2,000	1,900	2,000	1,300
Old Age	3,400	1,900	3,100	3,500	3,300	2,300
On Back	900	500	800	1,000	1,000	700
Theft	800	500	400	100	300	600
Other Known Causes	900	400	1,600	1,100	300	400
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
Percent of Total by Cause						
Coyotes	29.2	16.7	23.8	22.2	26.3	28.7
Bobcats	0.4	0.4	—	—	—	0.7
Dogs	2.1	0.4	1.4	2.2	0.5	1.3
Bears	1.3	0.8	2.9	1.7	0.5	3.3
Eagles	2.1	0.4	2.4	2.2	1.1	2.0
Fox	0.4	0.4	—	0.6	—	1.3
Mountain Lions	2.1	1.3	2.4	3.9	2.6	2.0
Other Predators	—	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Weather	12.5	50.0	11.0	5.0	7.4	5.3
Disease	8.8	4.6	8.6	8.9	8.9	6.0
Lambing Complications	9.2	5.4	9.5	10.6	15.8	13.3
Poison	7.1	5.4	9.5	10.6	10.5	8.7
Old Age	14.2	7.9	14.8	19.4	17.4	15.3
On Back	3.8	2.1	3.8	5.6	5.3	4.7
Theft	3.3	2.1	1.9	0.6	1.6	4.0
Other Known Causes	3.8	1.7	7.6	6.1	1.6	2.7
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause 1/						
Coyotes	644,000	402,000	482,500	352,000	445,000	361,200
Bobcats	9,200	10,050	—	—	—	8,400
Dogs	46,000	10,050	28,950	35,200	8,900	16,800
Bears	27,600	20,100	57,900	26,400	8,900	42,000
Eagles	46,000	10,050	48,250	35,200	17,800	25,200
Fox	9,200	10,050	—	8,800	—	16,800
Mountain Lions	46,000	30,150	48,250	61,600	44,500	25,200
Other Predators	—	10,050	9,650	8,800	8,900	8,400
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>828,000</b>	<b>502,500</b>	<b>675,500</b>	<b>528,000</b>	<b>534,000</b>	<b>504,000</b>
Weather	276,000	1,206,000	221,950	79,200	124,600	67,200
Disease	193,200	110,550	173,700	140,800	151,300	75,600
Lambing Complications	202,400	130,650	193,000	167,200	267,000	168,000
Poison	156,400	130,650	193,000	167,200	178,000	109,200
Old Age	312,800	190,950	299,150	308,000	293,700	193,200
On Back	82,800	50,250	77,200	88,000	89,000	58,800
Theft	73,600	50,250	38,600	8,800	26,700	50,400
Other Known Causes	82,800	40,200	154,400	96,800	26,700	33,600
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,380,000</b>	<b>1,909,500</b>	<b>1,351,000</b>	<b>1,056,000</b>	<b>1,157,000</b>	<b>756,000</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>2,208,000</b>	<b>2,412,000</b>	<b>2,026,500</b>	<b>1,584,000</b>	<b>1,691,000</b>	<b>1,260,000</b>

1/Sheep value per head based on a two-year average value per head of ewes 1+ years.

Sheep value: 1996-\$92.00; 1997-\$100.50; 1998-\$96.50; 1999-\$88.00; 2000-\$89.00; 2001-\$84.00.

# LOSSES OF LAMBS BY CAUSE: WYOMING 1996-2001 1/

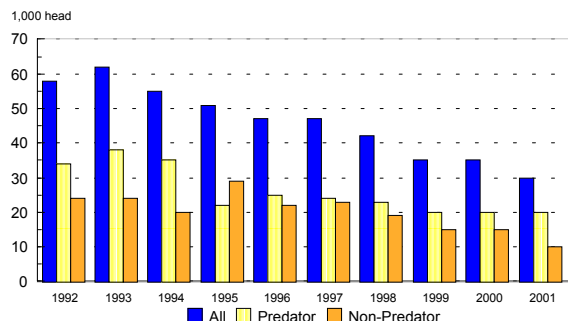
Cause of Loss	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of Head						
Coyotes	42,000	37,000	34,500	27,000	29,000	28,000
Bobcats	300	400	600	500	500	600
Dogs	700	700	700	500	500	300
Bears	600	700	900	500	200	700
Eagles	8,000	6,900	7,900	7,000	5,700	5,700
Fox	6,700	6,200	5,400	4,600	4,700	4,400
Mountain Lions	1,300	1,800	1,400	1,300	1,100	900
Other Predators	400	300	600	600	300	400
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>
Weather	14,100	18,000	13,100	7,700	11,200	6,700
Disease	6,900	11,200	8,500	12,400	7,900	3,500
Lambing Complications	6,300	4,900	4,700	4,200	4,200	4,000
Poison	1,400	2,000	1,500	2,000	1,700	1,300
On Back	100	200	100	—	—	100
Theft	600	800	500	—	200	400
Other Known Causes	2,600	2,900	1,600	1,700	800	1,000
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>94,000</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>
Percent of Total by Cause						
Coyotes	45.7	39.4	42.1	38.6	42.6	48.3
Bobcats	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0
Dogs	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5
Bears	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.3	1.2
Eagles	8.7	7.3	9.6	10.0	8.4	9.8
Fox	7.3	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.9	7.6
Mountain Lions	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.6
Other Predators	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.7
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>70.7</b>
Weather	15.3	19.1	16.0	11.0	16.5	11.6
Disease	7.5	11.9	10.4	17.7	11.6	6.0
Lambing Complications	6.8	5.2	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.9
Poison	1.5	2.1	1.8	2.9	2.5	2.2
On Back	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	—	0.2
Theft	0.7	0.9	0.6	—	0.3	0.7
Other Known Causes	2.8	3.1	2.0	2.4	1.2	1.7
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>29.3</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Dollar Value of Losses by Cause 2/						
Coyotes	2,272,200	2,094,200	1,486,950	1,225,800	1,438,400	1,190,000
Bobcats	16,230	22,640	25,860	22,700	24,800	25,500
Dogs	37,870	39,620	30,170	22,700	24,800	12,750
Bears	32,460	39,620	38,790	22,700	9,920	29,750
Eagles	432,800	390,540	340,490	317,800	282,720	242,250
Fox	362,470	350,920	232,740	208,840	233,120	187,000
Mountain Lions	70,330	101,880	60,340	59,020	54,560	38,250
Other Predators	21,640	16,980	25,860	27,240	14,880	17,000
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>3,246,000</b>	<b>3,056,400</b>	<b>2,241,200</b>	<b>1,906,800</b>	<b>2,083,200</b>	<b>1,742,500</b>
Weather	762,810	1,018,800	564,610	349,580	555,520	284,750
Disease	373,290	633,920	366,350	562,960	391,840	148,750
Lambing Complications	340,830	277,340	202,570	190,680	208,320	170,000
Poison	75,740	113,200	64,650	90,800	84,320	55,250
On Back	5,410	11,320	4,310	—	—	4,250
Theft	32,460	45,280	21,550	—	9,920	17,000
Other Known Causes	140,660	164,140	68,960	77,180	39,680	42,500
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>1,731,200</b>	<b>2,264,000</b>	<b>1,293,000</b>	<b>1,271,200</b>	<b>1,289,600</b>	<b>722,500</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>4,977,200</b>	<b>5,320,400</b>	<b>3,534,200</b>	<b>3,178,000</b>	<b>3,372,800</b>	<b>2,465,000</b>

1/Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

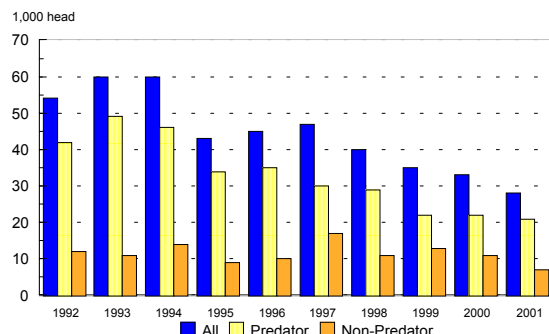
2/Lamb value per head based on the annual hundredweight prices received by farmers and ranchers for a 60 pound lamb.

Lamb value: 1996-\$54.10; 1997-\$56.60; 1998-\$43.10; 1999-\$45.40; 2000-\$49.60; 2001-\$42.50.

Lamb Losses Before Docking  
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes  
Wyoming



Lamb Losses After Docking  
All, Predator, and Non-Predator Causes  
Wyoming



### LOSSES OF LAMBS BEFORE DOCKING: WYOMING 1996-2001

Cause of Loss	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of Head						
Coyotes	14,000	13,000	12,000	10,000	11,000	11,500
Bobcats	100	300	400	500	500	400
Dogs	300	300	200	100	100	100
Bears	—	100	—	—	—	—
Eagles	5,400	4,700	5,500	4,800	4,100	4,100
Fox	4,700	5,200	4,100	3,600	3,900	3,600
Mountain Lions	200	200	300	400	200	—
Other Predators	300	200	500	600	200	300
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>
Weather	12,000	13,200	9,300	6,200	7,800	4,000
Disease	2,800	3,400	4,000	4,000	2,500	1,400
Lambing Complications	6,300	4,900	4,700	4,200	4,200	4,000
Poison	100	500	100	200	300	100
On Back	—	—	—	—	—	—
Theft	300	—	300	—	—	—
Other Known Causes	500	1,000	600	400	200	500
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>

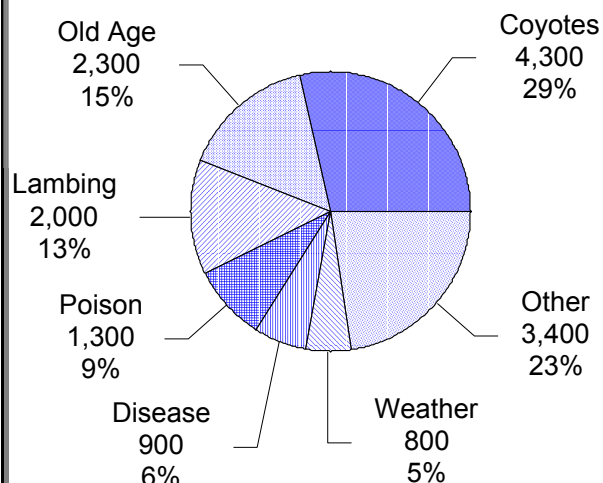
### LOSSES OF LAMBS AFTER DOCKING: WYOMING 1996-2001

Cause of Loss	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Number of Head						
Coyotes	28,000	24,000	22,500	17,000	18,000	16,500
Bobcats	200	100	200	—	—	200
Dogs	400	400	500	400	400	200
Bears	600	600	900	500	200	700
Eagles	2,600	2,200	2,400	2,200	1,600	1,600
Fox	2,000	1,000	1,300	1,000	800	800
Mountain Lions	1,100	1,600	1,100	900	900	900
Other Predators	100	100	100	—	100	100
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>29,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>
Weather	2,100	4,800	3,800	1,500	3,400	2,700
Disease	4,100	7,800	4,500	8,400	5,400	2,100
Poison	1,300	1,500	1,400	1,800	1,400	1,200
On Back	100	200	100	—	—	100
Theft	300	800	200	—	200	400
Other Known Causes	2,100	1,900	1,000	1,300	600	500
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Total Loss From All Causes</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>

## Sheep Losses by Cause

Wyoming 2001

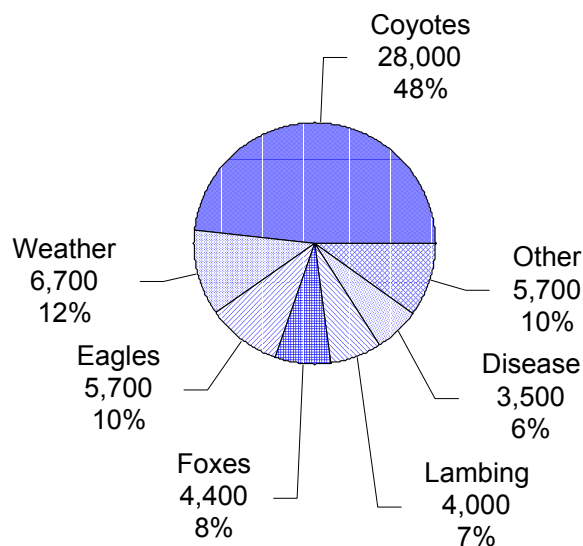
Total Losses = 15,000



## Lamb Losses by Cause

Wyoming 2001

Total Losses = 58,000



### LOSSES OF SHEEP AND LAMBS: PERCENT BY CAUSE WITHIN EACH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICT, WYOMING 2001 1/

Cause of Loss	Northwest	Northeast	West	South Central	Southeast	State
Percent						
Coyotes	33.8	44.8	52.1	39.1	45.3	44.2
Bobcats	—	1.0	—	1.8	1.6	1.0
Dogs	2.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	—	0.7
Bears	—	1.9	1.4	5.5	—	1.6
Eagles	1.3	8.6	1.4	14.5	12.1	8.2
Fox	3.8	4.8	7.9	3.6	9.5	6.3
Mountain Lions	1.3	4.8	—	0.9	—	1.6
Other Predators	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.8	—	0.7
<b>Total Predators</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>64.4</b>
Weather	8.8	9.0	8.6	10.9	13.2	10.3
Disease	15.0	3.3	7.1	8.2	3.2	6.0
Lambing Complications	17.5	8.6	3.6	6.4	8.4	8.2
Poison	2.5	2.9	7.9	2.7	2.1	3.6
Old Age	5.0	3.3	4.3	2.7	1.6	3.2
On Back	2.5	0.5	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.1
Theft	—	4.3	—	—	0.5	1.4
All Other Causes	5.0	1.4	2.9	—	1.6	1.9
<b>Total Non-Predators</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Total Loss All Causes</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1/Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.